

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the present patent application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

In the pending Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 13, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Tanaka '294 (JP H10-165294); and rejected claims 4-7, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Tanaka '294 in view of Jablonski '075 (U.S. Patent No. 3,710,075). The Examiner also indicated that claims 8-12 were objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants disagree with the rejections noted above. However, in an effort to expedite the examination of the present application, Applicants have amended the Title, the Specification, claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-10, and 12-14, and have cancelled claims 3, 8, and 11. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 4-7, 9-10, 12-13 are currently presented for examination of which claim 10 is the sole independent claim.

Applicants point out that claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form and claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 13 now depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 10. Applicants submit that, for the reasons identified by the Examiner, independent claim 10 and dependent claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 13 are clearly patentable and an immediate notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having addressed each of the foregoing rejections, it is respectfully submitted that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

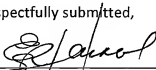
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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